

## UNSOLVED PROBLEMS OF EVOLUTION

Carroll Lane Fenton has contributed a fair and straight-forward presentation on "Evolution" in the 1967 printing of *The World Book Encyclopedia* (Volume 6, pp. 330-334), published by Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, Chicago.

This paleontologist opens a section on "The Evidences for Evolution" with clear attention to *belief* in evolution. Then a final section is provided under the heading, "Unsolved Problems of Evolution." The most important problems are grouped under three headings and then three objections to the theory of evolution are cited. Readers will want to check the exact wording, but a summary might be as follows:

A. The Cause of Variations—Experiments with gene changes due to chemicals and X-ray radiation and use of chemicals to cause aberrations of chromosomes are artificial; hence, a great amount of information is still needed regarding causes of variations in nature.

B. Guiding Forces of Evolution—Authorities need much more information on how selection works.

C. Missing Evolutionary Links—There are still numerous gaps in what appear to be fossil series.

Fenton mentions that hundreds of smaller problems exist which should prevent anyone from making the mistake of thinking that evolution is completely understood.

Having written that "belief" in evolution involves certain evidences, Fenton most properly recognizes that many individuals object to the theory of evolution because it conflicts with their religious beliefs. Three convictions are given as basis for religious objection to evolution:

1. Conviction about the Bible—It is considered that God made the world by separate Almighty acts, and that He created man, animals, and plants so that they would "yield fruit after their kind." Thus evolution from lower forms is not believed by individuals with this conviction.

2. Conviction about God—Many Christians are not able to reconcile the idea about evolutionary development, as being the result of natural forces present in organic life, with their conviction that God is the Creator, Sustainer, and Provider of all things.

3. Conviction about the Christian Gospel—Sin is usually considered mere imperfection when man is accepted as part of a process of evolution from a lower state; and, therefore, all meaning of the Gospel of redemption from the guilt of sin is lost.

The author presents a few other pros and cons of evolution.

—John N. Moore